GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3501
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008
ENDANGERED SPECIES OF CLOUDED LEOPARD
Deora Shri Milind Murli

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the West Bengal Forest officials have seized five skins of endangered clouded l eopard at Jaigaon on the Indo-Bhutan border as reported in the "Times of India" dated March 07, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to prevent this illegal trading in the skin of endangered species;

(c) whether any arrests have been made in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S.REGUPATHY)

(a) to (d) Yes Sir.On 25-2-2008, officials of West Bengal Forest Department have seized five clouded leopard skins at Jaigaon in Jalpaiguri District. One person was arrested in this connection and is under trial in the court.The steps taken by Government of India to prevent poaching and illegal trade in wildlife are as under:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife crime.Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Act.

2. A network of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries has been set up across the country to protect wildlife.

3. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.

4. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme −Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, to State/UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats including endangered species.

5. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.

6. India has bilateral arrangements with China and Nepal on combating wildlife crime.In addition, the State/UT Governments have also taken the following measures to prevent poaching and illegal trade:

1. Intensive patrolling in sensitive areas.

2. Coordination with other law enforcement agencies.

3. Provision for arms and ammunition, and communication facilities.

4. Conducting nature awareness campaigns for the public.

5. Soliciting cooperation from the local communities.